Today's News - Thursday, February 4, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, February 9.

- ANN feature: In his "A Filtered View #4," Bloszies ponders whither sustainability's flying buttress - and when will "energy-producing technologies find an aesthetic foothold."
- Wainwright wades deep into what might be in store for Havana "as Cuba opens its doors to the world" and "developers are queuing up to pounce": the city "may well find itself catapulted from having too little money to having too much, too fast, with all the usual consequences" (a great read!).
- O'Sullivan considers the "capital of what is supposedly the happiest nation in the world": "Even Copenhagen makes mistakes - what does it need to do to keep the good times rolling?"
- Bevan "sees the twilight of starchitecture falling" and "a deliberate move away from the formal excesses of parametric architecture's high noon - there is a longing for human touch."
- We welcome - and cheer! - two new insightful sites for architectural and urban discourse:
- Steuteville says Jacobs's Vincent Scully Prize speech, made 15 years ago, still resonates today - a wonderful introduction to the new Public Square: A CNU Journal.
- Pedersen launches Common Edge with a great Q&A with Kamin re: "the Chicago Biennial, George Lucas, and the magic of Jeanne Gang."
- Meanwhile, a judge rules that Chicago's Friends of the Parks' lawsuit against the Lucas Museum can proceed.
- Hadid's quarrel over the Tokyo Olympic Stadium could be coming to a boil: "To claim that the major similarities and many identical instances in the design," as well as "thousands of fine details are 'automatic' or due to chance is not credible."
- Gunts reports on preservationists' fears that Pelli's 1969 Comsat building in Maryland could be under threat: it is "an exceptional example of the 'machine in the garden' aesthetic and an ideal candidate for adaptive reuse" (perhaps the new owners should check out how Alexander Gorlin Architects et al. are reimagining Saarinen's Bell Labs in New Jersey).
- Lynch has a most interesting Q&A with Weishaar re: his World War I Memorial, critics of his design, and what might change.
- Cheers to the Arch League's 2016 Emerging Voices winners - a most interesting mix (when is it not?).
- Help wanted x 2: NYC-based Van Alen Institute seeks Deputy Director + Chicago-based Association of Architecture Organizations seeks an Assistant Director.
- Weekend diversions:
- Brussat uncovers a 1946 documentary about the rebuilding of Plymouth, U.K., after WWII: it's "a fascinating romp through a postwar of pessimism-tinged optimism - watch the film. It's a trip and a half."
- A great round-up of the "top places to watch architectural lectures online" (and add your own).
- Parnell gives (mostly) thumbs-up to "Heroic: Concrete Architecture and the New Boston," a must-read "for concrete fanboys and postwar architectural historians like me."
- A good reason to be in Palm Springs next week: it's Modernism Week!
- Bose visits "Planet Eames" at London's Barbican: "Distilling a pithy review from a whole constructed 'world' is a daunting prospect - for what more is there to say about such gilded darlings of design? As it turns out, quite a lot" (and she says it quite well!).
- There's a "Cycle Revolution" going on at the London Design Museum - "bike tribes" included.

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A Filtered View #4: Where is Sustainability's Flying Buttress? It may take a decade or so before photovoltaics and other energy-producing technologies find an aesthetic foothold, but for architecture to survive - they must. By Charles F. Bloszies, FAIA- ArchNewsNow.com

Cuba for sale: 'Havana is now the big cake – and everyone is trying to get a slice': Property developers are queuing up to pounce as Cuba opens its doors to the world. Proposals for Havana's old harbour are described as "Las Vegas meets Miami in the Caribbean": "We will have many divas and divos arriving with their very nice drawings"...Havana may well find itself catapulted from having too little money to having too much, too fast, with all the usual consequences. By Oliver Wainwright -- Miguel Antonio Padrón Lotti; Eusebio Leal Spengler; Belmont Freeman; Rafael Moneo; Conran; José Antonio Choy Lopez- Guardian (UK)

Even Copenhagen Makes Mistakes: Long touted as the model of modern urbanism, the city's biggest economic and environmental challenges are still ahead: [It] looks like a fantasy doodle of a forward-looking city...So what is the recipe that has gotten this onetime fishing village to a place of international envy - and what does it need to do to keep the good times rolling? By Feargus O'Sullivan -- Mikael Colville-Andersen/Copenhagenize; Jan Gehl/Jeff Risom/Gehl Studio- Next City (formerly Next American City)

A modest revival: Once everyone wanted buildings of glass, steel and outrageous curves. But Robert Bevan sees the twilight of starchitecture falling: With CAD, the limitations of working with paper were obliterated...the past, with its imprecise and unflexible bricks and mortar, had been left behind...Yet the past has persisted and now it is fighting back...there is a longing for human touch...a deliberate move away from the formal excesses of parametric architecture's high noon.- The Economist / Intelligent Life (UK)

Jane Jacobs: Four ways to improve cities and towns: Influential words from the most influential writer on urban planning in modern times: ...received the Vincent Scully Prize from the Green Building Council in 2000. Jacobs made a seminal speech...Although the speech was made 15 years ago, her excerpted comments resonate today. By Robert Steuteville- Public Square: A CNU Journal

Q&A: Blair Kamin on the Chicago Biennial, George Lucas, and the magic of Jeanne Gang: " People like Michael Pyatok are my heros. Because they believe that architecture has a humanistic core to it. At her best, Jeanne's work represents that, too." By Martin C. Pedersen -- Zaha Hadid; Patrick Schumacher; Sarah Herda; Ma Yansong/MAD Architects- Common Edge

A judge has allowed a lawsuit to proceed that seeks to stop "Star Wars" creator George Lucas from building a $400 million museum along Chicago's lakefront: ...the project will almost certainly be delayed...Friends of the Parks contends that construction of the...Lucas Museum of Narrative Art would violate public-trust laws... (AP)- U.S. News & World Report

Tokyo Olympic Stadium Quarrel Grows: Zaha Hadid says her stadium design for the Tokyo Olympics was rejected for nationalist motives: "To claim that the major similarities and many identical instances in the design," as well as "thousands of fine details are 'automatic' or due to chance is not credible"... -- Kengo Kuma- New York Times

Where My Comsat? New ownership could threaten one of Cesar Pelli's - and Maryland's - most beloved works of architecture: ...an exceptional example of the "machine in the garden" aesthetic and an ideal candidate for adaptive reuse...unprotected by any landmark designation, local or federal, and preservationists have feared for years that it could be torn down for new development. By Edward Gunts [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Finding a Place in History: Joseph Weishaar on His Winning WWI Memorial Design "The Weight of Sacrifice": Q&A about his

winning design, his response to the park's critique, and what the future could hold for the young architect...Have you received any feedback yet on how your design may change? ..."there will be some changes. But the spirit of the design will still be there in the end." By Patrick Lynch -- Sabin Howard [images]- ArchDaily

Architectural League of New York announces 2016 Emerging Voices winners: ..."all compellingly address the relationship between architecture and place..." -- Alex Anmahian/Nick Winton/Anmahian Winton Architects; Omar Gandhi/Omar Gandhi Architect; Cesar Guerrero/Ana Cecilia Garza/Carlos Flores/Maria Sevilla/S-AR; Frank Jacobus/Marc Manack/SILO AR+D; Jon Lott/PARA Project/Collective-LOK; E.B. Min/Jeffrey L. Day/Min | Day; Rozana Montiel/Rozana Montiel | Estudio de Arquitectura; Heather Roberge/Heather Roberge | Murmur [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Help wanted: NYC-based Van Alen Institute seeks Deputy Director: ...will take the lead in the management of the day-to-day business of running our non-profit organization...- Van Alen Institute

Help wanterd: Chicago-based Association of Architecture Organizations seeks a full-time Assistant Director to help serve its rapidly expanding membership base of nonprofit design organizations; application deadline: February 29- Association of Architecture Organizations (AAO)

Plymouth after World War II: ..."How We Live Now," filmed in 1946, about the effort to rebuild the most heavily bombed city per capita in Britain...a great example of propaganda...a fascinating romp through a postwar of pessimism-tinged optimism...watch the film. It's a trip and a half...the doubtful citizens were smarter than the experts, and what happened to Plymouth...bears me out. By David Brussat- Architecture Here and There

The Top Places To Watch Architectural Lectures Online: ...these open-source films provide invaluable insights into architects throughout recent history.- ArchDaily

Review> The Brutalism Truth: Steve Parnell reflects on "Heroic: Concrete Architecture and the New Boston" by Mark Pasnik, Chris Grimley, Michael Kubo: For concrete fanboys and postwar architectural historians like me...perhaps it's best to describe this as an introductory reference rather than a racy blockbuster...the editors...are careful to translate the British bombast of Brutalism into the more optimistic Heroic.- The Architect's Newspaper

Modernism Week in Palm Springs: The California oasis has a long history as a getaway for celebrities looking for respite from Hollywood, which has left the desert city dotted with homes designed by such midcentury modern masters as E. Stewart Williams, Albert Frey, and Donald Wexler.- Artinfo

Planet Eames: A sprawling retrospective of design's favorite duo reveals how conscious they were of the power of their own image: Distilling a pithy review from a whole constructed "world" is a daunting prospect - for what more is there to say about such gilded darlings of design? As it turns out, quite a lot. "The World of Charles and Ray Eames" at London's Barbican Art Centre. By Shumi Bose [images]- Metropolis Magazine

At London Design Museum, Britain's Bicycling Revolution: "Cycle Revolution" charts the growth of bike use in the city, along with the engineering, fashion and cultures of what it calls bike tribes.- New York Times

Diller Scofidio + Renfro: UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive: ...provides exemplary spaces for exhibitions and film screenings, as well as access to BAMPFA's encyclopedic collections of art and film. By Kirsten Kiser -- EHDD [images]

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